

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1 -34 were pending, with non-elected claims 1-5 and 7-26 withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By the present amendment, non-elected claims 1-5 and 7-26 have been canceled. Claims 6, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 34 have been amended to more specifically recite certain aspects of the invention. In addition, claims 27, 30 and 33 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. The above amendments are not to be construed as acquiescence to the Examiner's stated grounds for rejections and are made without prejudice to prosecution of any subject matter removed or modified by this amendment in a related divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

In reply to the Examiner's rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, Applicants have amended the claims, as suggested by the Examiner, to recite that the claimed methods represent methods for "determining whether a patient has lymphoma" wherein an amount of polypeptide in step (c) that is greater than the amount of polypeptide in the control sample "indicates that the patient has lymphoma." Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In reply to the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 6, 29 and 32, to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim phrases noted by the Examiner.

In reply to the Examiner's rejection to claims 6, 29 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, Applicants have amended the rejected claims by replacing the phrase "binding agent" with the phrase "an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof." As noted by the Examiner, antibodies are specifically set forth in the specification and, furthermore, the skilled artisan would recognize, in light of the present disclosure, that antigen-binding fragments of such antibodies were also squarely within Applicants' possession at the time the application was filed. Antigen-binding fragments of antibodies are well known in the art and extensively described in the

specification as filed (*e.g.*, section starting at page 21, line 13). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The amendments proposed by the Examiner for placing the application in condition for allowance have been made by Applicants and, accordingly, all of the claims remaining in the application are submitted to be allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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